



Midwest Bat Working Group

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Muncie, IN

4 April 2013

Attendees:

Rob Mies, President

Al Kurta, Vice President

Brianne Walters, Treasurer

Katrina Schultes, Secretary

Tim Carter

Joe Kath (phone)

Bree McMurray

Amy Russell (phone)

Justin Boyles

Scott Johnson

Gerda Nordquist (phone)

Action Items:

1. Katrina: Create an excel sheet of any major actions – a decisions list
2. Rob volunteered for OBC to create a tabletop awareness display for MWBWG.
3. Membership Committee will create a membership flyer for distribution to student organizations and other professional organizations (see Tim and Rob for photos).
4. Amend the bylaws to include a student representative board member. Membership Committee will write up a position description for bylaws. We will be ready to vote new member in at the 2014 meeting.
5. Katrina will send reminder to Board to review the group's History document. Would also like members to submit photos of past meetings.
 - a. Tim Carter should submit a summary of the 2013 meeting (with photos).
6. Katrina will coordinate with Kirsten Alvey from the Missouri Bat Census to take "official" photos at our annual meeting(s).
7. Awards Committee (Joe Kath and Gerda Nordquist) will take over the preparation for the student awards given at the annual meeting (coordinate judges, put together judge's packet, etc.)
8. Website Committee (Bree McMurray, Paul White, and Scott Johnson) directed by President to come up with a plan to update the website, as needed, and to send the notes of the meeting(s) to Board of Directors for review.

Tabled discussions on what to do with our funds:

1. Sponsor bat events/festivals (at a low level ~\$500). Discussion included who to fund, how to advertise such funding, and how to evaluate requests.
2. Student travel award? Decide whether to stick with \$100 presentation award (considered a "gimme" due to low student participation), give a donated item instead, or do a student travel award as discussed in 2012. Or do both.

Meeting called to order by: Rob Mies 8:05 AM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Voting Results

Welcome to new and re-elected board members – Tim Carter, Gerda Nordquist, and Scott Johnson.

Treasurer's Report (Brianne Walters)

2 accounts:

Dues – \$5,325

Registration – approximately \$2000. We will have money left over from this conference; it was cheaper than previous meetings. \$2411 minus cost of social, plus we had \$2000 in sponsorships. Probably will have \$1500+ left over. Every meeting is going to be a little different – we might need to hold over a little money. We had \$600 left over from 2012.

Attendance was ~100 (94 registrations) – considering how many out-of-state travelers could not come, that is pretty good.

DECISION: keep registration money in reserve for future meetings.

- Liability

Discussion about liability and who pays if a meeting goes over cost. MWBWG is associated with ISU; would ISU take the financial liability if something happened to someone? SBDN pays for insurance to remove liability.

Motion by Tim to require insurance for all MWBWG meetings of any sort.

2nd by Al. Discussion? Justin – does this come out of registration fees or what, let's make that clear. Tim – adjust your registration fees to cover it. Depending on where the meeting is, that's where you have to get the insurance.

MOTION PASSED.

Rob made proposals on how to spend our dues money:

- Student Stipend. SBDN does a NASBR student travel award. Tim says we have a little advantage housed under ISU, so we do not have to pay for getting taxes done. Katrina – previously we talked about working harder to bring more people to our meeting, so we wanted to offer a student travel award to MW.
 - We decided previously to give \$100 student presentation awards. Our meeting is just so small that it's almost a "gift" – if you show up, you probably will get an award. Justin suggested we could give a reference book or something that we could get donated.
 - Al – students can't come to a meeting in April. Bree – lots of students come to SBDN in February, which is a longer established meeting. An incentive to students could be to meet professionals, government employees. Scott – maybe we could hook up with a national meeting like Midwest F&W meeting.
- Better awareness of MWBWG. How do we get more members and/or more awareness for the group? MWBWG Awareness Display that could easily be shipped and set up for members to use/display. WI, IN, MI bat festivals where we could set up. Rob volunteered for OBC to create it. Onetime expense but it can be reused. State TWS and other similar

meetings would be good. Rob – do we want a decision on creating a travelling display? Table-top pop-up displays, easy to ship. This could cost \$1000 plus shipping occasionally.

- Motion by Bree to put forth excess funds to create a group information, static display that can be shipped around between members for displaying at any sort of wildlife meetings to raise awareness about MWBWG (limit \$500, without additional board permission). Second by Tim. Discussion – bring up idea at the business meeting.
- **MOTION PASSED.**
- Research Support. Rob – do we want to support student research? Discussion, we are not sure we have enough funds to do this consistently and would need to be at least \$1000.
 - Decision for now – No.
- The group could be a sponsor of events at a low level. Bree likes this idea. Katrina: this would count towards educational aspect of MW. More discussion – we would like to sponsor 3 bat festivals in 2013 to increase awareness of group and promote bat education. Other states are considering setting up a festival. We could offer the potential for sponsorship to others for helping with start-up funds. Could be announced at business meeting. Rob – we’re thinking about \$500 for each one – that’s the lowest “sponsorship” level in most cases. Justin thinks that’s a little high. We need to set up a mechanism. Board agrees that this is good use of funds, in general, when funds are available. Tim - \$1500 is a lot, but what about next time... Potential conflict of interest, since 2 of our board members are organizing 2 of the big festivals. Might make sense to rotate through the 3 big festivals and keep back some money for start-ups or smaller festivals. At board meeting each year, we look at funds and decide who we can support out of who requests funds. Maybe come up with a deadline to request funds, then requires “advertising.” Festival leaders must be members. A potential value of membership is that we might sponsor their festival. **Table this discussion for now.**

Membership Committee Report

Brianne – 63 members: 55 professional, 8 students

Amy – we have not done a lot at this point.

Rob – display and sponsorships could help increase awareness and membership.

Lots of consultants and government employees...how many students can we reach?

Tim – Committee could work on developing a pdf flyer (who we are, why become a member) to send out to all student chapters of TWS and known faculty doing bat research, Academy of Sciences at each state, etc. Tim and Rob can donate photos.

DECISION: create membership flyer

Gerda: student representative on the board? People tend to lose interest for things that are not in their face – their only interaction might be the meeting. It is something that happens more than once a year. Amy and Joe agree. Tim agrees – there are not a lot of opportunities for the small pool of students who would really like to do that.

Bylaws say 11 board members. We could amend our bylaws to include another. Student would be voting member. Amendment of bylaws requires 2/3 majority board approval and 2/3

membership approval. We can amend the bylaws this year, come up with position description, and vote a member in next year. This will be brought up in membership this meeting.

DECISION: pursue creation of student board member position.

History Committee Report

Add photos! Find someone to take photos at future meetings, including exhibits, location, Board of Directors.

Rob – Board of Directors please respond to Katrina's draft History. Katrina will send a reminder to Board with a deadline. Scott offered to help.

Award Committee Report

Joe and John – decided that Dave Redell would be first recipient of Dave Redell Lifetime Achievement Award. Dave was very happy to receive the distinction!

John Whitaker is 2013 recipient. Will present award at business meeting. John will not be present. \$99.50 for plaque.

Rob appointed Gerda to help on the committee with Joe.

Student award committee at the meeting – they coordinate judges, put together judge's packet, etc. This will be taken over by Award Committee.

Website Committee Report

Rob appointed Scott to committee.

Bree & Paul – reviewed website and checked links. Talked to Laura, Webmaster – she wants to step down, but she will help us out for now. Paul does the filming and has 2 people interested: Heather, not a student, she's with WI DNR. Website needs to be current and updated.

Rob suggests current committee meet and come up with a plan to update it at this meeting. Board of Directors would like to see the notes and review.

Annual Meeting Committee

2013 Updates – A few issues: Brienne is a life-saver and helped a lot with planning! Al edited program materials – thanks! Sponsors volunteered willingly and we got a lot. Challenging: coming up with a theme or having invited speakers. Our meeting overlaps the WBWG. Come up with a theme and lock in speakers early. Posters are on the rise, so create a lot of space – 23 posters; only 11 orals. Poster session at social usually has more interaction and is relaxed. How do we make it good for students to present?

2014 Planning

Joe: Would like to do it at a state run lodge, which is not free but discounted. He is worried; he doesn't know exactly how to get started. Rob – be sure to tie in with the experienced people to help you out. Committee = Tim, Al, and Brienne are there to help. We need to set some deadlines to line up facility and lodging. 1st task – find a venue immediately! Hotel and conference can be different but nearby.

2015 Planning

Missouri biologist, Sybill Amelon – would like to host 2nd Eastern Meeting with SBDN, NEBWG, and MWBWG in St. Louis probably in conference center with hotel near a park

system. Convenient for travel. If Midwest and/or Northeast vote to include themselves, we will have another joint meeting.

MOTION: move to accept the bid (Tim) Second by Brianne. No discussion.

MOTION PASSED.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:56 AM by Rob.